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REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending herein.

Claims 1-13 are rejected.

Claims 1-5 and 7-13 are currently amended.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C 103

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chien et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,042,887).

It is respectfully submitted that Chien et al. fails to render amended claim 1, and claim 2 as dependent therefrom, obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that Chien et al. fails to teach or suggest a chamber seasoning method comprising "cleaning said chamber; and providing a seasoning film on said interior surfaces and said gas distribution plate of said chamber by introducing precursor gases selected from the group consisting of silane and an oxygen containing gas, dichlorosilane and a nitrogen-containing gas and trimethyl silane and a carbon-containing gas [emphasis added] into said process chamber.", in combination with the process conditions set forth in amended claim 1 and defined by claim 2 as dependent therefrom.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Chien et al. fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1 and 2, and thus, fails to render claims 1 and 2 obvious within the

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contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 2 is therefore respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta (U.S. Pat. No. 5,824,375) in view of Rajagopalan et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,274,058), Hander et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,403,501), Murugesh et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,811,356) and Ying et al. (U.S. 2003/0013314 A1).

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to render amended claim 1, and claim 2 as dependent therefrom, obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) since the cited references fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations set forth in amended claim 1 and defined by claim 2 as dependent therefrom, as was set forth herein above with respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 2 as unpatentable over Chien et al.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to render claims 1 and 2 obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 2 is therefore respectfully solicited.

Claims 5-7, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta (U.S. Pat. No. 5,824,375) in view of Yoo et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,479,098 B1) and further in view of Rajagopalan et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,274,058), Hander et

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al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,403,501), Murugesh et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,811,356) and Ying et al. (U.S. 2003/0013314 A1).

In light of the amendments to independent claims 5 and 10, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to render claims 5-7, 10 and 11 obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as will be hereinafter set forth in detail.

Gupta, Yoo et al., Rajagopalan et al., Hander et al., Murugesh et al. and Ying et al. fail to teach invention of claims 5-7

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest a chamber seasoning method comprising "cleaning said process chamber; and providing a seasoning film having a thickness of from about 2 μ m to about 10 μ m on said interior surfaces of said process chamber by introducing precursor gases selected from the group consisting of silane and an oxygen-containing gas, dichlorosilane and a nitrogen-containing gas and trimethyl silane and a carbon containing gas [emphasis added] into said process chamber at a chamber pressure of from about 10 Torr to about 760 Torr", as set forth in amended claim 5 and defined by claims 6 and 7 as dependent therefrom.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 5 and claims 6 and 7 as dependent therefrom, and thus, fails to render claims 5-7 obvious within the

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contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of claims 5-7 is therefore respectfully solicited.

Gupta, Yoo et al., Rajagopalan et al., Hander et al., Murugesh et. al and Ying et al. fail to teach invention of claims 10 and 11

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest the limitations of amended claim 10 and claim 11 as dependent therefrom, for the same reasons as were set forth herein above with respect to the rejection of claims 5-7.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 10 and claim 11 as dependent therefrom, and thus, fails to render claims 10 and 11 obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of claims 10 and 11 is therefore respectfully solicited.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta (U.S. Pat. No. 5,824,375) in view of Rajagopalan et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,274,058), Hander et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,403,501), Murugesh et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,811,356) and Ying et al. (U.S. 2003/0013314 A1), and further

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in view of Xi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,323,119 B1) or Rossman et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,121,161).

As claim 3 depends from amended claim 1, and therefore, incorporates all of the limitations of amended claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest a chamber seasoning method comprising "cleaning said chamber; and providing a seasoning film on said interior surfaces and said gas distribution plate of said chamber by introducing precursor gases selected from the group consisting of silane and an oxygen-containing gas, dichlorosilane and a nitrogen containing gas and trimethyl silane and a carbon containing gas [emphasis added] into said process chamber...", in combination with the process conditions set forth in amended claim 1 and defined by claim 3 as dependent therefrom.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest wherein the seasoning film of claim 1 "comprises silicon nitride and said precursor gases comprise said dichlorosilane and said nitrogen-containing gas", as set forth in amended claim 3.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 3, and thus, fails to render amended claim 3 obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of amended claim 3 is therefore respectfully solicited.

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Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta (U.S. Pat. No. 5,824,375) in view of Rajagopalan et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,274,058), Hander et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,403,501), Murugesh et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,811,356) and Ying et al. (U.S. 2003/0013314 A1), further in view of Hoeglin (U.S. Pat. No. 5,061,514).

As claim 4 depends from amended claim 1, and therefore, incorporates all of the limitations set forth in amended claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to set forth all of the limitations set forth in amended claim 1, and therefore, fail to render claim 4 obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest wherein the seasoning film of claim 1 "comprises silicon carbide and said precursor gases comprise said trimethyl silane and said carbon-containing gas", as set forth in amended claim 4.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 4, as dependent from amended claim 1, and thus, fail to render claim 4 obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of claim 4 is therefore respectfully solicited.

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Claims 8 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta (U.S. Pat. No. 5,824,375) in view of Yoo et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,479,098 B1), further in view of Rajagopalan et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,274,058), Hander et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,403,501), Murugesh et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,811,356) and Ying et al. (U.S. 2003/0013314 A1), and in further view of Xi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,323,119 B1) or Rossman et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,121,161).

In light of the amendments to independent claim 5, from which claim 8 depends, and to independent claim 10, from which claim 12 depends, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 8 as dependent from amended claim 5 and of claim 12 as dependent from amended claim 10.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest wherein the seasoning film of claim 5 "comprises silicon nitride and said precursor gases comprise said dichlorosilane and said nitrogen-containing gas", as set forth in amended claim 8, and wherein the seasoning film of claim 10 "comprises silicon nitride and said precursor gases comprise said dichlorosilane and said nitrogen-containing gas", as set forth in amended claim 12.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to render claims 8 and 12 obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and

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allowance of claims 8 and 12 is therefore respectfully solicited.

Claims 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta (U.S. Pat. No. 5,824,375) in view of Yoo et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,479,098 B1), further in view of Rajagopalan et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,274,058), Hander et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,403,501), Murugesh et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,811,356) and Ying et al. (U.S. 2003/0013314), and in further view of Boeglin (U.S. Pat. No. 5,061,514).

In light of the amendments to independent claim 5, from which claim 9 depends, and to independent claim 10, from which claim 13 depends, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 9 as dependent from amended claim 5 and of claim 13 as dependent from amended claim 10.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest wherein the seasoning film of claim 5 "comprises silicon carbide and said precursor gases comprise said trimethyl silane and said carbon-containing gas", as set forth in amended claim 9, and wherein the seasoning film of claim 10 "comprises silicon carbide and said precursor gases comprise said trimethyl silane and said carbon-containing gas", as set forth in amended claim 13.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited

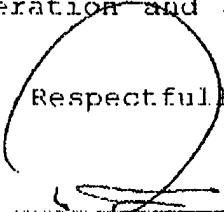
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references fail to render claims 9 and 13 obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of claims 9 and 13 is therefore respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

Every effort has been made to amend applicant's claims in order to define his invention in the scope to which it is entitled. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-13 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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